



FIRST NATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ON SAFE DRINKING WATER

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
FIRST NATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
(the “Committee”)**

(29 January 2025 – TD TOWER, 66 WELLINGTON STREET WEST, T’KARONTO)

Reference: CHAIR

Chief Emily Whetung acted as chair of the meeting. John P. Brown (“**Executive Director**”) acted as secretary for the meeting.

Reference: MEETING PROPERLY CONSTITUTED

A quorum of the Members of the Committee was present in person or virtually as set out in Schedule A.

Reference: BUSINESS CONDUCTED

The Committee considered and addressed the matters set out in the Agenda attached as Schedule B.

Reference: APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 12 DECEMBER 2025 MEETING

ON A MOTION DULY MADE, seconded and carried:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the 12 December meeting be and are hereby approved.

Reference: FOLLOW UP RE MATTERS FROM 12 DECEMBER 2024 MEETING

ON A MOTION DULY MADE, seconded and carried:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The following matters from our meeting of 12 December 2024 be addressed:

1. The FNAC should investigate a more focused approach to create awareness of and to deliver information relating to the FNAC website by targeting First Nations communities with water issues using Instagram and Facebook.
2. Wes Bova, Maggie Stothart and Kerry Black should reach out to local tribal councils to gather a set of criteria of the qualifications and skills experts should have to be able to assist First Nations with assessing, designing and requesting funding for water and wastewater infrastructure. These criteria will then be included on the “Resources” page of the website.

3. The FNAC should send emails to appropriate individuals in the relevant Chief's organizations in each province advising them of the FNAC website. These names/organizations will be obtained by:
 - a. John Brown sending an email to the AFN asking for a list of the provincial organizations that are members of the AFN.
 - b. Kerry Black providing John Brown with a list of suggested organizations that he can reach out to with information regarding the website.
4. Maggie Stothart will send information regarding the FNAC website by email to the regional chiefs and water operators.
5. The FNAC should write to ISC:
 - a. requesting that the capital management officer in each region compile and deliver to the FNAC the current funding requests received;
 - b. emphasizing that First Nations do not have to be in the FNIP to be eligible for funding under the Settlement Agreement;
 - c. requesting from ISC its annual reports outlining the amounts spent under the Settlement Agreement
 - d. requesting that the Attorney General review ISC's "spending" under the Settlement Agreement since June 2021;
 - e. clearly articulating the funding mechanisms that are required under the Settlement Agreement;
 - f. providing a link to the FNAC website; and
 - g. requesting dates to meet with the RDGs.
6. The FNAC should write to ISC and request/demand that the new CDRP form be added to the ISC website and sent to the RDGs with appropriate instructions on when, how and why it should be used.

Reference: APPLICATIONS TO THE WATER GOVERNANCE FUND

ON A MOTION DULY MADE, seconded and carried:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. These Minutes record:
 - a. Maggie Stothart declared a conflict of interest in respect of the applications from * and recused herself from any consideration of these funding applications; and
 - b. Chief Emily Whetung declared a conflict of interest in respect of the applications from Amy Gollatt and recused herself from any consideration of these funding applications.
2. The FNAC postpone consideration of any applications for funding to the Water Governance Fund until an assessment template is created and approved by the Committee. The template should take into account such matters as:
 - a. the amount requested;

- b. the number of applications received;
 - c. the number of First Nations included in the request;
 - d. regional allocation of funds;
 - e. geographical allocation of funds;
 - f. how closely the application meets the applicable criteria;
 - g. the massive funding gap between the amounts that are required and the amount that is available for distribution; and
 - h. whether a cap should be set on the amount that should be allocated per First Nation.
3. The FNAC should consider all available applications to the Water Governance Fund using the assessment template once it is created and approved by this Committee.
4. The FNAC should:
- a. ensure that thefnac.ca website has appropriate information describing the funding limitations;
 - b. deliver a letter to Minister Hajdu detailing the significant funding gap created by Canada's minimal monetary commitment (\$9m) for the Fund;
 - c. create an appropriate template to respond to First Nations who apply:
 - i. setting out whether their application has been approved in whole, or in part, or not at all;
 - ii. where applicable, explaining why their applications have not been approved; and
 - iii. where applicable, directing the First Nations to other more appropriate funding sources; and
 - iv. where applicable, if the First Nation is a Class Member, directing the First Nation to the Commitment Dispute Resolution Process under the Settlement Agreement

Reference: REQUESTING AN EXTENSION OF TIME

ON A MOTION DULY MADE, seconded and carried:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the FNAC write a letter to Minister Hajdu requesting her consent to an extension of the time periods set out in the Settlement and Court Orders relating to (a) the mandate of the FNAC, and (b) funding applications to the Water Governance Fund.

Reference: MEETINGS WITH ISC

ON A MOTION DULY MADE, seconded and carried:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. John Brown is directed to prepare a letter to the Minister and Deputy Minister of ISC:
 - a) setting out the Committee's concerns relating to the conduct and behaviour of RDGs who are either unaware of their obligations under the Settlement, or are deliberately refusing to meet those obligations;
 - b) identifying the relevant RDGs;

- c) requesting that the Minister and/or Deputy Minister of ISC allow members of the FNAC to attend one or more of their weekly meetings with the RDGs to educate them regarding their obligations under the Settlement and to secure their obligations that they will meet those obligations.
2. The FNAC consider sending more letters to the Minister regarding the above matters to ensure that these issues remain a current priority, and that these letters be supplemented by op-eds or other public writings highlighting the critical need for clean water as a fundamental human right that is available to all non-Indigenous people in Canada but is not available to most Indigenous people.

Reference: SIGNING AUTHORITY OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ON A MOTION DULY MADE, seconded and carried:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Executive Director (currently John P. Brown) has always been authorized and will continue to be authorized to approve and sign on behalf of the FNAC Secretariat, without a second signature, the following documents;

- a) financial statements;
- b) income tax returns, including HST/GST returns and related documents; and
- c) applications for insurance for the benefit of any person entitled to be indemnified by the Corporation pursuant to the General Operating By-Law No.1 against any liability incurred by the individual:
 - i. in the individual's capacity as a Director or an Officer of the Corporation (as defined in the General Operating By-Law No. 1); or
 - ii. in the individual's capacity as a director or an officer, or in a similar capacity, of another entity, if the individual acts or acted in that capacity at the Corporation's request.

Reference: CONSULTATIONS WITH BLACKBIRD AND CLASS COUNSEL

ON A MOTION DULY MADE, seconded and carried:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the FNAC will continue to work with Blackbird and Class Counsel regarding the steps that can be taken relating to the passage of Bill C-61 and/or relating to persuading any newly elected government to introduce the same or similar legislation as expeditiously as possible.

Reference: ADJOURNMENT

Schedule A

Members of the First Nations Advisory Committee (“FNAC”)		
Name	Email	Community
Chief Emerita Emily Whetung (present)	emilieee.whetung@gmail.com	Curve Lake First Nation Southern Ontario
Councilor Doreen Spence (absent)	doreenspence@tataskweyak.com	Tataskweyak First Nation Northern Manitoba
Chief Chris Moonias (present)	chris.moonias@neskantaga.com	Neskantaga First Nation Northern Ontario
Richard Inkster (absent)	rinkster@kitsumkalum.com	Kitsumkalum Band Council British Columbia
Wesley Bova (present)	wesbova@shaw.ca	Akwesasne First Nation Ontario
Kathleen Padulo (present)	kathleen.padulo@coo.org	Oneida Nation of the Thames Ontario
Mario Swampy (absent)	mario_73@hotmail.com	Nipisihkopahk (Samson Cree Nation) Alberta
Maggie Stothart, P. Eng., FEC (present)	maggiestothart@nsmdc.com	New Brunswick

Schedule B

Agenda First Quarterly Meeting of the First Nation Advisory Committee on Safe Drinking Water – 25 January 2025		
	Time	Description
1	8:00 to 8:10	Opening & Introductions
2	8:10 to 8:20	Approval of Meeting Minutes of 12 December 2024 and consideration of follow up items (John)
3	8:20 to 8:45	Applications for Funding - Water Governance Fund (Maggie): i) Carl Braun (see Tab 3) ii) Amy Gollat (See Tab 4)
4	8:45 to 9:00	Steps to address the March 2026 deadlines re: FNAC funding and Water Governance Funding (John) (see Tab 5) (e.g. write a letter to Minister Hajdu seeking her consent to extending the March 2026 deadlines to June 2030)
5	9:00 to 9:30	Discussion of ISC's position re Funding Requests under the Settlement Agreement (see Tabs 9 to 13) (Wes)
6	9:30 to 10:00	Discussion of next steps re meeting with and/or educating ISC and the RDGs re their obligations under the Settlement Agreement (All) a. Individual regions, Selected regions or All regions b. Location of meetings
7	10:00 to 10:15	Health Break
8	10:15 to 10:30	Update re Bill C-61 (Chief Whetung): Summary of events (see Tabs 6 to 8)
9	10:30 to 11:20	Discussion re Next Steps re Bill C-61 a. Blackbird's strategy b. Class Counsel's strategy c. What should the FNAC be doing?
10	11:20 to 11:25	Signing Authority a. Income Tax Returns b. HST Returns c. Insurance Renewals
11	11:25 to 11:30	Other business & scheduling next meeting.
12	11:30	Closing